

REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 3-8 are in the case and presented for consideration.

The Office has objected to the abstract. Although it was not exactly clear what matter was objected to, applicant has deleted the original abstract and provided a new abstract to ensure that only proper language and format is used. The new abstract which accompanies this amendment on a separate sheet is in compliance with 35 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and MPEP §608.01(b).

The Office has also objected to the failure to provide proper section headings in the specification. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to include proper section headings.

The claims were further objected to for various informalities. The informalities have been corrected. Notably the trade name Kevlar® has been changed to its generic chemical name in claim 3.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 5 have been drafted to avoid the examiner's rejection and are believed to conform with U.S. practice. Regarding the rejection of claim 1 for reciting a core and body which are both of a material like rubber but with different hardness, the undersigned thanks the examiner for his assistance in clarifying the rejection over the phone on July 12, 2005, and agreeing to accept the phrase "said core and body with said tabs are both of a rubber-like material, but with different hardness" to place the claim in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,307,634 to Bihlmire.

The Office has indicated that claims 2 and 4-8 would be allowable if rewritten to

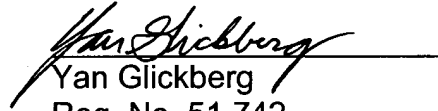
include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

Accordingly, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action as respectively requested. No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain which may be resolved by telephonic communication, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below, if such will advance the application to allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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